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BUILDING A PEACEFUL AND BETTER WORLD THROUGH SPORT

Letter dated 5 February 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a solemn appeal made on 4 February 1994 by H.E. Mr. Andreas Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece, in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce-Ekecheiria.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this solemn appeal circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item "Building a peaceful and better world through sport".

(Signed) Antonios EXARCHOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

SOLEMN APPEAL MADE ON 4 FEBRUARY 1994 BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OBSERVANCE OF THE OLYMPIC TRUCE-EKECHEIRIA

I address an appeal on behalf of the Greek athletes to all the political and military leaders whose countries suffer from armed conflicts, to respect and observe the Olympic Truce-Ekecheiria in accordance with the resolutions of the forty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, and to cease all hostility and abstain from any act of violence from 5 February to 6 March 1994, the period during which the XVII Olympic Winter Games will take place at Lillehammer, Norway.

The Olympic Truce-Ekecheiria, as conceived by the Ancient Greeks, was the conclusion of the spirit of solidarity and understanding among peoples and offered the opportunity for the Olympic Games to be held normally by suspending any armed conflict.

The United Nations, also inspired by the Greek traditions on Ekecheiria, has unanimously decided to proclaim 1994 as International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal and to call upon all belligerents to respect the Olympic Truce-Ekecheiria, the observance of which undoubtedly constitutes an invaluable contribution of us all to peace, dialogue, understanding and the quest for permanent and lasting solutions to international disputes.